

Watchman & State Journal.
By E. P. WALTON.
MONTPELIER, APRIL 25, 1862.

FROM WASHINGTON,
FRIDAY, April 18, 1862.

The Congressional report for another week embraces the concluding scene of the emancipation act, which consummated the work President Lincoln signed the bill, and immediately transmitted a message in which he declared his concurrence in the purpose of the act, and indicated imperfections in its details. I anticipated something of this sort, it will be reconnected; but it was from my own estimation of the act, and not from any knowledge of the President's views. The act has created no excitement in the city; and if the people dislike it, they have been careful to conceal their grief. I suspect, however, that there is not much grief about it. The compensation allowed by the act will be fully equal to the market value of the slaves emancipated, and I presume the commissioners appointed to appraise their value will award all that the claimants are entitled to. Considerable surprise has been manifested among the President's friends by the nomination for commissioners. Ex-Major Berrett¹ heads the list, and he is an ultra pro-slavery man, and was so unfortunate as to be impressed some months ago, because of reasonable doubts as to his loyalty. It would have been well, say some men, to have taken somebody who had never been committed to jail; at least it would have saved explanations. Unquestionably the President endeavored to get a fair board, and I think it will turn out that he has done so. As an offset to Mr. Berrett we have Mr. Godine, who, though a native of North Carolina, is an ultra anti-slavery man, and was formerly one of the editors of the anti-slavery newspaper, *The Era*, published in this city by Dr. Bailey. The balance power in the commission is the Hon. Samuel F. Vinton, formerly a distinguished Member of Congress from Ohio, a whig in politics, a conservative on the slavery question, and a gentleman whose personal character is far above reproach. On Sunday last scenes of the greatest interest were witnessed in the African churches, of which there are nearly a dozen in the city. It was a time of heartfelt thanksgiving in all those churches, and in some of the Methodist denomination, where members of the congregation freely express their sentiments, the expressions used and the things done are indescribable; very ludicrous sometimes, yet very touching. An example in the church nearest to the capitol minister was exhorting the people to give glory to God for deliverance, when up jumped a brother and shouted, "Glory to Lovejoy!" "No!" said the preacher; "I tell you not glory to a Member of Congress, nor to the whole of Congress, nor the people, but the whole of it to God!" A slave visited my room on the day after the bill was passed, and I sounded him on the question. Said he: "I don't know who to thank, but I thank Congress, and all good people, and I thank God too." The colored people are joyful, but peaceful and respectful also. The most intelligent of them are taking pains to make the new sons of liberty prudent in conduct, and to show themselves worthy of the liberty which has been conferred upon them.

In the Senate the confiscation bill still drags. Judge Collier has introduced a substitute which is very well received by strong men in both Houses; and but for committee in some cases, and perhaps a little preference occasionally for one's own plan, I think his bill would prevail. It may as it is. Judge Collier was the author of the act of the last session, for confiscating property used in rebellion, and I know of no man so well fitted to extend the act to the property of those who have *acted* in the rebellion. His bill includes slaves, and really embraces substantially the two leading plans now before the House, and so to obviate constitutional objections. The purpose underlying his scheme is to hold out inducements to the rebels to return to allegiance, while the effect of most of the pending plans would be to intensify the rebellion. Thus different may be the effect of acts which are in form quite similar.

The House has been at work upon the Pacific railroad bill. It pledges about six million dollars from the national treasury, saying nothing of millions of acres of public lands. Mr. Merrill of Vermont, gave the bill a few hard thumps, although in favor of a good bill at the right time; whereupon Mr. Blair of Missouri responded in a speech remarkable for bad taste and bad temper. The friends of the bill were evidently alarmed at Mr. Merrill's suggestions.

We have had two days of June weather, winding off with a thunder storm. This weather has been favorable for army operations at Yorktown, and to-day we have intelligence that Gen. Smith's division (including the Vermont Brigade) had a fight last night and repulsed the enemy. I am sure McClellan has a very hard task; but the Vermonters will do their share of it, and do it well.

¹Later dispatches from Washington state that Gen. Merrill declines to serve on the committee.—ED.

See advertisement of Prang's Card Portraits in another column. We have seen specimens which are very nice.

Gen. Hunter evidently means that the confiscation of the slaves of rebels shall amount to something in his department. He issued an order on the 13th in which he said:

"All persons of color duly held to involuntary service by the citizens of the United States, in Fort Pulaski and on Cockspur Island, Ga., are hereby confined and detained in military law, and shall hereafter receive the free exercise of their rights, and persons of color as are also held, and may be required, shall be employed in the quartermaster's department, at Fort Pulaski, or elsewhere, as may be directed."

He is also preparing a list of owners of negroes in the abandoned Sea Island plantations, and the do not propose themselves to be loyal within a specified time, will be compelled to leave the island.

A copy of the *New England Soldier's Aid Association*—From thence they will be taken to the Marine Hospital, in Burlington, which is to be immediately made ready for their reception.

The names of the killed and wounded in the Vermont Regiments are just as we receive them. There are evidently some mistakes in their transmission, but they are probably as correct as it is possible to get them by telegraph.

The New York *Times* mentions the following. Dr. Lighthill to whom it refers will be in Montpelier at the Pavilion, House on the 5th of May remaining to the 17th.

Beauregard's victory at Pittsburg Landing is very much like that described by John Phoenix. He says: "I held the enemy down by my nose, which I had inserted between his teeth for that purpose!"

It is reported at Washington that the French Emperor has directed Mons. Thiers, his Prime Minister, to congratulate Mr. Dayton, the United States Minister to France, upon the continued victories of the Federal government.

The rolling stock captured by Gen. Mitchel has been sent to Nashville.

SURRENDER OF FORT PULASKI.
The Tybee Island correspondent of the N.Y. *World* furnishes the following account of the surrender of Fort Pulaski:

On the morning of the 10th, the rebels were ready to commence the attack. The fort was held by 100 men, and the rebels were ready to begin it every fifteen minutes, their enormous size rendering it extremely difficult and considerably dangerous to the officers. About half past seven o'clock in the morning, the rebels, who were in the fort, opened the ordnance, opened the ball with a shot from Battery Halleck, and the fire was soon general along the fortifications. The rebels held their fire until the rebels' broadside had been delivered, and then opened a shower of shells and shrapnel, which came in rapid succession, and did great damage. The rebels' fire was returned with a shower of grape and canister, and the rebels were repelled with the greatest rapidity and desperation. From Tybee Island and Geat's Point our fire was concentrated upon the fort whenever their guns responded, while ours were concentrated upon the fort whenever the rebels' guns responded. 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